



West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service

For further information contact West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service, Charleston, West Virginia 25305, or call 1 (800) 535-7088 or E-mail at nass-wv@nass.usda.gov.

July 12, 2000

WEST VIRGINIA PEACH PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO BE LESS THAN 1999

WEST VIRGINIA -- The 2000 peach crop is forecast at 7.5 million pounds, down 5.1 million pounds or 40 percent from the revised 1999 crop and down 5.2 million pounds or 41 percent from the revised 1998 crop.

In 1999, peach production totaled 12.6 million pounds, down 100,000 pounds from 1998. Utilized production in 1999 totaled 12.3 million pounds, a decrease of less than 1 percent from 1998. Bearing acres were estimated at 1,300 with an average yield of 9,690 pounds per acre. The average price received per pound was estimated at 30.3 cents. This was an increase of 3.9 cents from 1998. Value of utilized production totaled \$3.72 million, an increase of 14 percent from 1998.

Total apple production for 1999 was estimated at 145.0 million pounds (3.5 million 42 lb. bushels), up 32 percent from 1998. Utilized production totaled 140.0 million pounds, up 33 million pounds from 1998. Apples for fresh market totaled 20.0 million pounds, 3 million more than 1998. Apples for processing accounted for 120.0 million pounds of the 1999 crop, 30 million pounds more than the 1998 crop.

The average price received for 1999 apples was 9.2 cents per pound, up 0.2 cents from 1998. Total value of utilized production was \$12.9 million for the crop, up \$3.2 million from the 1998 crop. Fresh market apples brought 21.7 cents per pound in 1999, 5.8 cents more than 1998. Processed apples sold for \$142 per ton, \$13 less than in 1998.

The number of bearing acres totaled 8,000 in 1999, no change from 1998. The yield per acre was 18,100 pounds, 4,300 pounds more than 1998. The yield was based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested but not sold due to marketing conditions.

UNITED STATES -- The July 2000 forecast of U.S. peach production is 2.67 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 1999 and 11 percent above 1998. All peach producing States west of the Mississippi river, with the exception of Missouri, expect the same or increased peach production for 2000. The South Carolina peach crop is forecast at 150.0 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year, but up 7 percent from 1998. Production in Virginia is down 33 percent. New Jersey production is unchanged from both 1999 and 1998.

The U.S. peach production in 1999 was estimated at 2.51 billion pounds, up 5 percent from last year. Of this production, 2.42 billion pounds were utilized. This was 4 percent more than the previous year but 3 percent below 1997. The average price received for peaches was 19.1 cents per pound, down 0.1 cents from 1998. Value of utilized production totaled \$462.9 million, up 3 percent from 1998.

Total apple production for 1999 totaled 10.6 billion pounds, down 9 percent from 1998. Utilized apple production totaled 10.4 billion pounds, 3 percent less than 1998. A total of 6.0 billion pounds was sold for fresh market, down 7 percent from 1998. There were 4.4 billion pounds for processing, up 2 percent from 1998. Value of utilized production totaled \$1.5 billion, up 17 percent from 1998. Price per pound averaged 14.8 cents, up 2.6 cents.

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